

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AID-05 NSC-05 IO-13 DIWY-01
EB-08 COME-00 SP-02 SS-15 HEW-04 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 AGRE-00 TRSE-00 /078 W
-----038734 151331Z /43
P 151155Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5234

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SPOP
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR POPULATION INFORMATION

REF (A) STATE 167895 (B) TOAID A-18 (1/4/76) (C) TOAID A-61
(8/2/77)

REF (B) IS EXTENSIVE DOCUMENT COVERING POPULATION
SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA AND CONTINUES PERTINENT TODAY
ALTHOUGH WRITTEN IN RESPONSE TO STATE 297241.
FOLLOWING IS UP-DATED INFORMATION REFLECTING
OBSERVATION OF THE CHANGING REVOLUTIONARY SCENE IN ETHIOPIA.

1. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: EPMG CENTRAL
STATISTICS OFFICE (CSO) ESTIMATES MID-1976
POPULATION AT 28.197 MILLION; 1977 AT 28.556,
2.5 PERCENT GROWTH RATE. BIRTH RATE (PER 1000 LIVE
BIRTHS) 1975-78, 45; DEATH RATE 1975 AT 22;
1976-78 AT 20. THERE IS NO CENSUS ON WHICH THESE
ESTIMATES ARE BASED. CSO OFFERS NO EXPLANATION
FOR REDUCED CY 76-78 RATES.

2. POPULATION PROGRAMS:

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A. HOST COUNTRY'S POPULATION POLICY HAS NOT
REPEAT NOT CHANGED FROM THAT OF NO POLICY. HOWEVER,
THERE APPEARS ALMOST NO AGGRESSIVE GOVERNMENTAL
OR OTHER VISIBLE OPPOSITION TO FAMILY PLANNING
ACTIVITIES CURRENTLY CONDUCTED BY IN GOVERNMENT
AND NON-GOVERNMENT FACILITIES BY THEIR EMPLOYEES.
THESE ACTIVITIES WITH EXCEPTION OF SALARIES FOR

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ARE SUPPORTED BY INTERNATIONAL, FOREIGN GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE EXTERNAL FUNDING. SPECIFIC DOMESTIC FUNDING FOR POPULATION PROGRAMS IS NEGLIGIBLE TO NON-EXISTENT. TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, I.E., MINISTRY OF HEALTH, ARE TOLERANT OF FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES CONDUCTED BY MINISTRY EMPLOYEES IN GOVERNMENT FACILITIES BUT DO NOT NOTICABLY SUPPORT NEW INITIATIVES OTHER THAN ACCEPT NON-GOVERNMENTAL FUNDED TRAINING OFFERED TO TECHNICAL STUDENTS, E.G., NURSES. THERE ARE NO SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS AGAINST TRAINING OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS OR PROVISION OF SERVICES PROVIDED THEY DO NOT PRE-EMPT AVAILABLE GOVERNMENTAL RESOURCES, HUMAN AND FINANCIAL.

B. THERE ARE RAPIDLY ESCALATING DEMANDS FOR INCREASED TRAINING OF ALL CITIZENS AT ALL LEVELS AND FOR PROVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES TO LOWEST LEVELS IN VIRTUALLY EVERY DEVELOPMENTAL SECTOR. THUS WITHIN THIS CONTEXT THERE IS A GROWING DEMAND FROM EDUCATORS/TRAINERS FOR INFORMATION/EDUCATION IN THE AREAS OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE. AS REVOLUTIONARY FERVOR TO EQUATE ROLE OF WOMEN ESCALATES THERE ARE GREATER DEMANDS FOR SEX EDUCATION AND INFORMATION. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MATION REGARDING FERTILITY MANAGEMENT PARTICULARLY WITHIN CONTEXT OF MCH. FOLLOWING CLOSELY BEHIND MEASURES FOR POLITICIZATION OF BROAD MASSES ARE REQUIREMENTS TO RAISE THEIR LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING IN ALL AREAS RELATIVE TO REVOLUTIONARY GOALS. WITHIN THIS MASS EDUCATIONAL PROCESS SOME LEADERS HAVE RECOGNIZED NEED TO CREATE AN AWARENESS OF FERTILITY MANAGEMENT AS RELATED PRIMARILY TO HEALTH AND SECONDLY TO NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY. IT APPEARS THAT MANY OFFICIALS, MOSTLY AT THE WORKING LEVEL, ARE WILLING TO RECOGNIZE FAMILY PLANNING INITIATIVES AS THEY RELATE TO BASIC HEALTH THROUGH MCH SERVICES. AN INTEGRATED BASIC HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEM IS PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF EPMG MINHEALTH AND VIRTUALLY ALL HEALTH SERVICES ARE BEING TARGETED TO THIS GOAL. ONLY EXCEPTION TO INTEGRATION APPEARS TO BE WHO'S SMALLPOX CAMPAIGN WHICH IS NOW IN TERMINAL SURVEILLANCE PHASE.

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AID-05 NSC-05 IO-13 DIWY-01
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C. POPULATION INFORMATION IN CONTEXT OF
MCH HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL SEGMENT OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL
EXPERIMENTS IN NON-FORMAL EDUCATION AND IT IS
ANTICIPATED THAT SUCH INFORMATION WILL BE
INCORPORATED IN GOVERNMENT'S MASSIVE EFFORTS TO
TRAIN BASIC HEALTH WORKERS FROM ILLITERATE VILLAGE
RECRUITS. IT APPEARS THAT THE EPMG HAS NO CURRENT
PLANS TO DELIVER FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES BEYOND
THAT WHICH IS NOW EFFECTED BY EXTERNALLY FINANCED
NON-GOVERNMENTAL RESOURCES. HOWEVER, IT IS
INEVITABLE THAT MINHEALTH WILL BE FACED WITH
RISING DEMANDS THAT CANNOT BE IGNORED.

D. MISSION ENVISIONS THAT WITH OR WITHOUT
NATIONAL POLICY, FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES WILL
EXPEND IN SHORT-RUN.

E. DONOR ASSISTANCE PRIMARILY CHanneled
THROUGH ETHIOPIAN FAMILY GUIDANCE ASSOCIATION
(FGA), NON-GOVERNMENTAL AFFILIATE IPPF. FGA
ENTIRELY DEPENDENT UPON EXTERNAL FUNDING INCLUD-
ING AID FUNDS THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES. FGA
ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY ADDITIONAL FUNDS LIMITED
WITHOUT EXPANSION REOCCURRING BUDGET. BOTH
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IPPF AND OTHER AID ASSISTED INTERMEDIARIES

FUNDING NEW FGA INITIATIVES FY 78. FGA CLAIMS PROTECTION OF APPROXIMATELY 150,000 COUPLES END CY 1976. FGA SERVICES DELIVERED CY 76 SIGNIFICANT INCREASE PREVIOUS YEARS. THESE FIGURES MAY REPRESENT 60-70 PER CENT TOTAL CONTRACEPTING WOMEN.

3. NON-POPULATION PROGRAMS: ETHIOPIA'S SOCIALIST RHETORIC HAS EMBRACED THOSE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT WOULD LEAD TO REDUCE POPULATION, REF (A) PARA 3. THERE HAS BEEN NO HINT OF NATIONALISTIC PRO-NATALISM ATTITUDE. EQUITABLE LAND DISTRIBUTION IS A FACT. OTHER ACTIONS REMAIN PRIMARILY IN PLANNING STAGE BUT ARE MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF REVOLUTION. THIS RELATED IN DETAIL REF (C).

4. FOOD AND POPULATION: IN SPITE OF LARGE POPULATION BY AFRICAN STANDARDS ETHIOPIA HAD BALANCED ITS FOOD REQUIREMENTS WITHOUT MAJOR IMPORTATION UNTIL DROUGHT CONDITIONS OF 1974. ETHIOPIA CONTINUES IN A RECOVERY PHASE THAT HAS BEEN DETERRED PRIMARILY BY POLITICAL AND RECENTLY MILITARY INSTABILITY. RECENT HARVESTS HAVE INCREASED OVER PREVIOUS "GOOD" YEARS. HOWEVER, INCREASED CONSUMPTION AND CONSTRAINTS OF INEFFICIENT DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS AFFECT SUPPLY/PRICE. THIS MAY BE OVERCOME BY PLANNED RESOURCE ALLOCATION IN PERTINENT AREAS. CURRENT LEVELS GRAIN IMPORTS ARE SEEN AS ONLY SHORT-RUN REQUIREMENT. UNLESS PREOCCUPATION WITH DEVELOPMENTAL AND OTHER NATIONAL PROBLEMS CREATES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FURTHER CONSTRAINTS, THE AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL WILL MOVE BEYOND SELF-SUFFICIENCY TO EXPORT IN NEAR TERM (MINAG PROJECTS 1982) BEFORE AGAIN BEING OVERTAKEN BY POPULATION GROWTH (ASSUMING NO POLICY CHANGE) IN THE LONGER TERM.

5. IN SUMMARY, ASTUTE ETHIOPIAN PLANNERS ARE GENERALLY AWARE OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIMENSIONS AFFECTING ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, MOST CURRENT DEVELOPMENTAL INITIATIVES ARE PLANNED AND IMPLEMENTED TO OBTAIN IMMEDIATE RESULTS IN LINE WITH REVOLUTIONARY OBJECTIVES. EXTENSIVE FORWARD PLANNING IN TERMS OF 5-10 YEAR PLANS CONTINUES TO BE UNDETERMINED. THE SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA IS CONDUCIVE TO APPROPRIATE OVERTURES OF ENCOURAGEMENT

FOR LEADERSHIP TO EXAMINE THEIR POPULATION
POSITION IN CONTEXT OF THEIR FORWARD PLANNING.
OVER-NIGHT CONVERSION TO DRASTIC POPULATION
CONTROL CANNOT BE EXPECTED. HOWEVER, CON-
TINUED AND INCREASING SUPPORT OF ON-GOING
INITIATIVES TOGETHER WITH A STRATEGY OF
GENTLE PERSUASION AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY WILL
BE AS PRODUCTIVE IN THE REALIZATION OF ACTIVE
PROGRAMS AS DEMOGRAPHIC SCARE RHETORIC WILL
BE NEGATIVE. ETHIOPIANS STILL CONSIDER THAT
LARGE AREAS OF THE COUNTRY ARE UNINHABITED,
NOT RECOGNIZING THAT AT THE PRESENT STAGE
OF DEVELOPMENT AND WITHOUT FAIRLY MASSIVE
INVESTMENTS THESE SAME AREAS ARE UNINHABITABLE.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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